



City of Seattle

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**Department of Planning and Development**  
Diane M. Sugimura, Director

**CITY OF SEATTLE  
ANALYSIS AND DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Application Number:** 3012032  
**Applicant Name:** Greg Brant  
**Address of Proposal:** 6053 California Ave SW

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

Land Use Application to subdivide one parcel into four parcels of land. Proposed parcel sizes are: A) 1,022.5 sq. ft., B) 1,022.2 sq. ft., C) 1,349.7 sq. ft. and D) 4,099.2 sq. ft. Review also includes the unit lot subdivision of proposed Parcel D into four unit lots. The construction of townhouses and live/work structure has been approved under Project #6253885. The subdivision of Parcel D is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards for Parcel D will be applied to Parcel D as a whole and not to each of the new unit lots.

The following approval is required:

**Short Subdivision** - to divide one parcel into four parcels of land.  
(Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 23.24.040)

**Short Subdivision** - to divide one parcel into four parcels of land (unit lot subdivision).  
(SMC Chapter 23.24.045)

**SEPA DETERMINATION:** ☒ Exempt ☐ DNS ☐ MDNS ☐ EIS

☐ DNS with conditions

☐ DNS involving non-exempt grading or demolition, or  
involving another agency with jurisdiction.

## **BACKGROUND DATA**

### **Site Description**

The site is located in a Neighborhood Commercial 2 zone with at 30 foot height limit. (NC2-30) The site is at 6053 California Ave SW, at the southern end of the block between SW Raymond Street and SW Graham Street. Pedestrian access to the site is via California Ave SW and the alley.

### **Area Development**

Zoning in the immediate vicinity is Neighborhood Commercial 2 (NC2-30) and Neighborhood Commercial 3 (NC3-30) and Single family 5000 (SF 5000). The Single-family zone is across the alley to the west.

### **Proposal Description**

The applicant proposes to subdivide one parcel into four parcels of land. Proposed parcel sizes are: A) 1,022.5 sq. ft., B) 1,022.2 sq. ft., C) 1,349.7 sq. ft. and D) 4,099.2 sq. ft. Review also includes the unit lot subdivision of proposed Parcel D into four unit lots. The construction of townhouses and live/work structure has been approved under Project #6253885. The subdivision of Parcel D is only for the purpose of allowing sale or lease of the unit lots. Development standards for Parcel D will be applied to Parcel D as a whole and not to each of the new unit lots.

### **Public Comments**

Two comment letters were received during the official public comment period which ended March 2, 2011. One additional comment letter was received after the comment period ended.

## **ANALYSIS - SHORT SUBDIVISION**

SMC Section 23.24.040 provides that the director shall use the following criteria to determine whether to grant, condition, or deny a short plat application:

1. *Conformance to the applicable Land Use Code provisions;*
2. *Adequacy of access for pedestrians, vehicles, utilities and fire protection, as provided in Section 23.53.005, Access to lots, and Section 23.53.006, Pedestrian access and circulation;*
3. *Adequacy of drainage, water supply, and sanitary sewage disposal;*
4. *Whether the public use and interests are served by permitting the proposed division of land;*
5. *Conformance to the applicable provisions of SMC Section 25.09.240, short subdivision and subdivisions in environmentally critical areas;*
6. *Whether the proposed division of land is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees;*

7. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.045, Unit Subdivisions, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating separate lots of record for the construction and/or transfer of title of townhouses, cottage housing, clustered housing, or single-family housing; and*
8. *Conformance to the provisions of Section 23.24.046, Multiple single-family dwelling units on a single-family lot, when the short subdivision is for the purpose of creating two (2) or more lots from one (1) lot with more than one (1) existing single-family dwelling unit.*

Based upon information provided by the applicant; review and approval of access, drainage and zoning within the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), the review and approval from the Seattle Water Department (SWD), Seattle Fire Department (SFD), and Seattle City Light; and review by the Land Use Planner, the following findings are made with respect to the criteria cited above:

1. The intent of the Neighborhood Commercial zone is to provide additional housing opportunities in neighborhoods where it is desirable to limit development to infill projects. The proposed short plat conforms to the applicable zoning and land use codes. The project will conform to all development standards of the NC2-30 zoning district. Parcel D is proposed to include a unit lot subdivision. The configuration of the unit lots will permit construction of new townhouses in accordance with applicable development standards of the zone.
2. Vehicular access to the building site will be from the alley. The Seattle Fire Department has approved this proposed short plat with conditions. Parcels located on private access easements should place an address identification sign near the intersection of the access easement with the public road for ease of identification of the property, especially in the event of an emergency. In order to assure that the maintenance responsibility of the private access is clear, the applicant/responsible party will be required to attach an easement maintenance agreement to the final short plat. Seattle City Light requires an overhead/underground easement on the portion of the property described as ingress, egress and utility easement.
3. This area is served with domestic water, sanitary sewer, and storm drain facilities by the City of Seattle and availability of service is assured subject to standard conditions of utility extension. The project has received a Water Availability Certificate 20110170. There are no recommended drainage or sewer conditions prior to recording of the short plat. A standard drainage control plan was required at time of building permit application using standard plans and methods.
4. The public use and interests are served by permitting the proposed division of land. The proposal meets all applicable criteria for approval of a short plat as discussed under Criteria 1, 2, and 3 of this analysis.
5. This site is not an environmentally critical area as defined in SMC 25.09.100; therefore, criterion #5 is not applicable to this application.
6. This short subdivision is designed to maximize the retention of existing trees.

7. The provisions of SMC Section 23.24.045, Unit Subdivisions, are as follows:
- A. *The provisions of this section apply exclusively to the unit subdivision of land for townhouses, cottage housing developments, residential cluster developments and single family residences in zones where such uses are permitted.*
  - B. *Sites developed or proposed to be developed with dwelling units listed in subsection A above may be subdivided into individual unit lots. The development as a whole shall meet development standards applicable at the time the permit application is vested. As a result of the subdivision, development on individual lots may be non-conforming as to some or all of the development standards based on analysis of the individual unit lot, except that private, useable open space for each dwelling unit shall be provided on the same lot as the dwelling unit it serves.*
  - C. *Subsequent platting actions, additions or modifications to the structure(s) may not create or increase any non-conformity of the parent lot.*
  - D. *Access easements and joint use and maintenance shall be executed for use of common garage or parking areas, common open spaces (such as common courtyard open space for cottage housing), and other similar features, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*
  - E. *Within the parent lot, required parking for a dwelling unit may be provided on a different unit lot than the lot with the dwelling unit, as long as the right to use that parking is formalized by an easement on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*
  - F. *The fact that the unit lot is not a separate building lot and that additional development of the individual unit lots may be limited as a result of the application of development standards to the parent lot shall be noted on the plat, as recorded with the Director of the King County Department of Records and Elections.*

The unit lot subdivision conforms to applicable standards of SMC 23.24.045. Structures reviewed under a separate building permit, conform to the development standards at the time the permit application was vested to Code.

8. The lot is not developed with single family residences; therefore criterion #8 is not applicable to the application.

### Summary

The lots to be created by this short subdivision will meet all minimum standards of the Neighborhood Commercial (NC2-30) zone set forth in the Land Use Code, and are consistent with applicable Neighborhood Commercial policy guidelines. As conditioned, this short subdivision can be provided with vehicular access, public and private utilities and access (including emergency vehicles). Adequate provisions for drainage control, water supply and sanitary sewage disposal have been provided for each lot and service is assured, subject to standard conditions governing utility extensions.

**DECISION - SHORT SUBDIVISION**

The proposed Short Subdivision and Unit Lot subdivision is **CONDITIONALLY GRANTED.**

**CONDITIONS - SHORT SUBDIVISION**

*Conditions of Approval Prior to Recording*

The owner(s) and/or responsible party(s) shall:

1. The proposed ingress/egress and utilities easement is inadequate for Fire Department access. Applicant will provide an approved fire department access walkway to Parcels A, B, C, and D (including Unit Lots W, X, Y, and Z) from California Avenue Southwest meeting the provisions noted below, or other alternative as approved by the Seattle Fire Department:

Section 504.1 of the Seattle Fire Code–Required Access. Exterior doors and openings required by this code or the International Building Code shall be maintained readily accessible for emergency access by the fire department. An approved access walkway leading from fire apparatus access roads to exterior openings shall be provided when required by the fire code official.

Section 503.1.1 of the Seattle Fire Code – Approved fire apparatus access roads shall be provided for every facility, building or portion of a building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction. The fire apparatus access road shall comply with the requirement of the section and shall extend to within 150 feet of all portions of the facility and all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building as measure by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility. Exception: The fire code official is authorized to increase the dimension of 150 feet where:

1. The building is equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, 903.3.1.2 or 903.3.1.3.
  2. Fire apparatus access roads cannot be installed because of location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grade or other similar conditions, and an approved alternative means of fire protection is provided.
  3. There are not more than two Group R-3 or Group U occupancies. Section 503.1.1
2. Provide an easement or covenant on the final plat to allow for the proper posting of address signage near the pedestrian easement in a location readily visible from California Ave SW to benefit Parcel C and unit lots W, X, Y and Z.

Signature: (signature on file)  
Darlene Edwards, Senior Land Use Planner  
Department of Planning and Development

Date: April 4, 2011